Crash of Mirage aircrafts

14. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Mirage aircrafts had crashed within one month between September, 2004 and October, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any probe has been ordered into these crashes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to ground Mirage aircrafts in view of these air-crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) There have been three Mirage 2000 aircraft crashes during the period 23rd September, 2004 and 9th November, 2004.

In the first accident, which took place on 23rd September, 2004 at Gwalior airfield, one Mirage 2000 aircraft crashed after the pilot ejected since the main wheel detached after take off. The second accident occurred on 12th October, 2004 at Gwalior Local Flying Area (LFA) in which one Mirage 2000 crashed due to engine problem. The pilots ejected safely. The third accident also took place at Gwalior LFA on 9th November, 2004 in which one Mirage 2000 crashed during the night flying. The pilot was killed in the crash.

Courts of Inquiry have been ordered into all these accidents.

There is no proposal to ground the Mirage aircraft.

Export of ALHs

15. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we have good export potential for the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and